



Utility Rate Savers

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APR 23 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
FCC
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222
Washington, DC. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ONLINE

RE: Concerns regarding CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Mr. Caton and Committee,

I am writing to express my concern and vulnerability of Section III.2 of FCC Docket No 96-61 which will eliminate the requirements for interstate, interexchange carriers from filing tariffs. Utility Rate Savers is a small auditing company which specializes in finding errors, rate changes and miscalculations on all utilities including the long distance and local calling of its clients. We have relied on the public tariff filings to audit our customers bills for these errors. We would be seriously hurt by the non-requirement of these filings.

I urge the FCC to relook this situation. Other alternatives can be found to efficiently disperse information to the public domain. I would submit that an on-line access or central clearinghouse could cheaply and accurately be made available to the public for these tariff filings.

Information, such as this, will enable companies, consumers and small businesses to obtain the resources to make accurate and prudent decisions. By eliminating these requirements it would make it virtually impossible to use checks and balances to verify the accuracy in regards to the rates on these carriers. Our country is built on checks and balances, the telecommunications companies should be made to adhere to these requirements in some manner.

Competition in the marketplace will be fostered and has been fostered by the availability of pricing information in the telecommunications industry. States require their electric and gas carriers to keep all filings on record along with the public awareness of changes associated with these filings. The telecommunication industry should also be made to keep these filings on record for the public use.

I strongly urge the FCC to require interexchange telephone companies to make their pricing information available to the public in some fashion.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Newman
President
Utility Rate Savers

April 20, 1996

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APR 23 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

April 17, 1996

Schmidt Associates Inc
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Phone: 916 939-8500

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate,
Inter-exchange Marketplace, CC Docket No. 96-61

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to express concern about the FCC's proposal to eliminate the tariff filing requirements for interstate, inter-exchange carriers in the proceeding referenced above. Schmidt Associates Inc (SAI) is a small computer software company specializing in software for telecommunications management. SAI has depended upon the information previously available in public tariff filings to provide management tools for large companies having their own Private Branch Exchanges (PBXs). Without such information, SAI could be forced to cease operations. SAI has about 150 competitors, all small companies, that might also be unable to continue in business without tariff information.

Although the FCC proposes to eliminate the tariff filing requirements for interstate, inter-exchange carriers, the FCC tentatively recommends that inter-exchange telephone companies be required to maintain pricing information for use by the FCC upon request. I strongly urge the FCC to require that such information also be available to the *public* upon request. This could be done cheaply, efficiently, and with a minimum of administrative burden to either the FCC or to the inter-exchange carriers. The possible mechanisms for the provision of such information could include some sort of central clearinghouse, on-line availability, or physical availability at designated carrier locations.

Such information will enable informed decision making by consumers – particularly small businesses that do not have the resources to obtain this information absent a public availability requirement. This information will also more readily enable consumers to determine if inter-exchange carriers are pricing in a non-discriminatory manner. Even if the tariff filing requirement is eliminated, other provisions of the Communications Act require that carriers provide service in a non-discriminatory manner. Absent some mechanism for customers to determine if carriers' pricing, however, it is hard to tell if carriers are complying with this statutory requirement.

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Mr. William Caton
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In a robustly competitive market such as that for interstate, inter-exchange telecommunications services, the availability of pricing information will only further foster that competitiveness. For example, pricing information could assist resellers in determining the financial feasibility of market entry, which can further increase the competitiveness of the market. By extension, it will increase the competitiveness of small businesses that are able to readily minimize their communications costs. I, therefore, strongly urge the FCC to require inter-exchange telephone companies to make their pricing information available to the public in some fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David L. Schmidt', written in a cursive style.

David L. Schmidt
President